

## Spain & Portugal

Our tour of Spain began with the Roman Theatre and Gladiator arena built in 15 BC in Merida. Several days in Seville provided us with a carriage ride through the city, and walking tours through **the Seville Cathedral which holds** the tomb of Christopher Columbus and the city streets viewing art, relics, and architecture which reflects Moorish, Jewish, and Christian influence over the centuries. We ventured to Jerez to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, and then to the 1790 House of Sandeman Winery for a wine tasting and tapas (lite) lunch. We crossed into the British Territory of Gibraltar glimpsing Morocco on the other side of the Strait. At the top of the Rock, we entered the natural cave called St. Michael's Cave used during World War II as cover during



The Mediterranean coastal town of Marbella shopping, and a day of relaxation by the our group to take the opportunity to place left the shore of the Mediterranean, our glimpse of Antonio Banderas' Villa as we viewed the oldest bull fighting ring, Plaza De of our trip as we viewed the well preserved We could never have imagined the skill of visiting the "paradise on Earth" as termed by Caliphs.



provided an opportunity for sea. Bonita was the only one of her feet in the cold water. As we guide provided us with a roadside traveled to Ronda where we Toros. Granada was the highlight Moorish palace, The Alhambra. 13th-century architects until

As we traveled by train to Madrid for our final four days, we viewed acres of olive trees and vineyards. Madrid provided us with a tour of the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family, the Prado and Thyssen-Bornemisza Museums, a walk through the Royal Botanical Gardens created in 1783, and the opportunity to attend an authentic bullfight at the Las Ventas Bullfighting Ring. A day excursion to Toledo, the original Capital of Spain, provided a hillside view of the city and Tagus River. An hour of shopping was topped off by a visit to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Synagogue Santa Maria La Blanca, and a suckling pig lunch at the Casa del Cardenal. Leaving the restaurant we walked over a 2000 year old Roman aqueduct.



We saw several UNESCO World Heritage Sites during our extraordinary visit. The Portuguese and Spanish people, the food, the culture, the art, the architecture, and the history of the countries provided us a very unique experience. GREAT memories to last a life time!!!

Mario and Bonita Hernandez